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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Butte Creek Watershed Education Project

Name of Applicant and Principal Investigators
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Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives
This project will be a cooperative effort supported by funding from various state and federal agencies and administered by California State University, Chico (CSUC) and the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC). As an adjunct to the watershed planning process, the development of educational programs for use in Butte County Schools, Butte Community College and California State University, Chico as well as the general public residing in and using the watershed will be completed to raise the level of consciousness of the importance of watershed health. This project will develop and utilize specific education programs targeting non-point source runoff and pollution, recreational degradation of riparian areas and water quality. This effort, supported by a broad range of participants, would initiate that process to establish firm commitments to watershed health with educational programs and restoration actions.

Background and Biological/Technical Justification
Butte Creek has a long history of use since the arrival of Euro-American and other ethnic groups in search of fortunes in California's gold fields. Hydraulic mining, canals built for water conveyance that were converted to other uses such as hydroelectricity, and grazing of livestock have been a part of the Butte Creek history. More recent appropriations of water in the valley portions of the creek have all but used up the existing flows and most of the imported flows. Lack of adjudication in the lower part of the valley portion, unregulated diversions and drainage systems, connection to more Feather River water and seasonal diversion of the entire creek through the Sutter Bypass makes Butte Creek one of the most complicated watersheds in the State. In addition, the modern day development of domestic water supplies, rapid development along the ridge in the town of Paradise and in the lower canyon, and heavy recreational pressures for more than half the year are negatively affecting water quality and quantity concerns. Human disturbance of the primary habitats of the priority species under CALFED is one of the greatest concerns.

Approach/ Tasks/Schedule
The teacher core will be expanded, a field classroom will be established, the number of participating students will be increased and the Watershed Resource Lending Library will make available the selection of classroom curricula. Educational materials, such as slide shows, videos, printed materials and a presentation booth will be developed for public use at workshops and community events. Involvement of the teachers, students and public through seminars, meetings and other workshops throughout the watershed will broaden the awareness of watershed health.

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Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED
Human disturbance of the primary habitats of the priority species under CALFED is one of the greatest concerns. Developing a comprehensive K-12 and public education program that is integrated with the local conservation groups and the agencies that are promoting the efforts is critical to the long term success of CALFED and other initiatives. This project will further the efforts supported by EPA, USFWS and others to provide a balance between humans and the primary habitats and priority species developed by CALFED.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts
Request from CALFED for budget costs to complete tasks and both phases of project amounts to $50,134. No negative third party impacts would be realized from this project. Education will be the sustainable legacy of CALFED.

Applicant Qualifications
The protection and enhancement of local creeks and watersheds by local community groups is a high priority at CSU, Chico. Toward this end, faculty and resources, conservation groups, public agencies, and others as needed are utilized. As a part of its community service mission, it is the policy of the University Research Foundation to organize teams for special projects to provide the kinds of services required for this project.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation
Monitoring and evaluation for the proposed project includes task force teacher evaluations, teacher workshop evaluations, records of the number and hours of teachers, students, and visitors involved in the program, and the education coordinator's annual report.

Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives
USFWS, NFWF, CALFED, CSU,Chico and BCWC have been contributing to the program as part of the development of the Watershed Management Strategy. The program has received a $43,000 EPA 319h grant under Placer County RCD to expand and complement the program. This program is highly compatible with CALFED objectives to further expand and develop local, watershed based education.

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